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HOUSE BILL 744

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph Cervantes

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE WATER RIGHTS ADJUDICATION PROCESS IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER AND THE DISTRICT COURTS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. APPROPRIATION. --

A. Two million one hundred thousand dollars (\$2,100,000) is appropriated from the general fund in the following amounts for expenditure in fiscal years 2003 and subsequent fiscal years by the following agencies for the following purposes:

(1) four hundred forty-three thousand two hundred dollars (\$443,200) to the administrative office of the courts for personnel, hardware, software, equipment, office space, administrative support and contractual services to

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1 consolidate stand-alone databases, coordinate data exchange  
2 between the courts and the office of the state engineer and  
3 create a web-based water rights information project to provide  
4 access to information regarding specific water cases;

5 (2) one million three hundred twenty-four  
6 thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,324,400) to the office of the  
7 state engineer for personnel, hardware, software, equipment,  
8 office space and administrative overhead support to accelerate  
9 hydrographic survey, fieldwork and mapping, and to expand the  
10 informal interaction of the office of the state engineer staff  
11 with water rights claimants to decrease the amount of formal  
12 mediation and litigation within water rights adjudications and  
13 increase informal negotiations for settlement of claims; and

14 (3) three hundred thirty-two thousand four  
15 hundred dollars (\$332,400) to the department of finance and  
16 administration for personnel, equipment, office space and  
17 administrative overhead to establish a statewide water rights  
18 public education and facilitation program to assist water  
19 rights claimants in submitting claims and in working with the  
20 office of the state engineer and the courts to settle water  
21 rights claims through mediation and negotiation.

22 B. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining  
23 at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general  
24 fund.

25 Section 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public

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1 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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